

**To:** Lehman, Rachel[Lehman.Rachel@epa.gov]  
**From:** Daguillard, Robert  
**Sent:** Mon 8/10/2015 1:26:07 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Guardian media enquiry

For inclusion in the wrap and daily hot issues

**From:** Karl Mathiesen [mailto:[karl.mathiesen.freelance@theguardian.com](mailto:karl.mathiesen.freelance@theguardian.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 7:45 AM  
**To:** Daguillard, Robert  
**Subject:** Guardian media enquiry

Hi Robert,

I'm a journalist with the Guardian writing a piece on the release from the Gold King Mine in Colorado.

I have a few questions on the background of the situation. Please do your best to answer them all.

On the general state of tailings dams and mines. How many such storage facilities are there across the country? How does the EPA monitor the maintenance and condition of mines and dams that are holding contaminated water? Are abandoned mines, like Gold King, monitored?

It has been reported that the EPA has been trying to designate the area as a superfund area for some time. When was the idea first floated? Why was it unsuccessful? Does the EPA believe the spill would have occurred regardless of the lack of superfund designation? Would that have changed the way the clean up was undertaken (ie would there have been more money available and therefore less likelihood of a failure)?

Best,

Karl

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